



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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22 OCTOBER 1966

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1. South Vietnam

In the strongest statement yet to come out of the cabinet crisis, the Saigon University Students Union has denounced Ky's "police state regime" and fingered the prime minister as solely responsible for the recent imbroglio. The Saigon embassy believes the statement may well have been inspired by former economy minister Thanh.

Thanh has also made another move indicating that he is staking out a political position for the future. Yesterday he published a letter to "all businessmen and consumers" in which he managed to take all the credit for stabilizing South Vietnam's economy.

2. Berlin

Willy Brandt intends to continue direct contacts with the Russians in spite of Allied reservations.

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The US mission in Berlin notes that both Brandt and the Russians see advantages in continued talks and that Berliners generally approve. Brandt feels he is riding the wave of the future and gaining national prestige by pushing the Social Democrats' efforts to open new avenues to the East. The Russians can use the talks to put pressure on Bonn and to demonstrate the Communist thesis that Berlin is a "special political entity."

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3. Congo

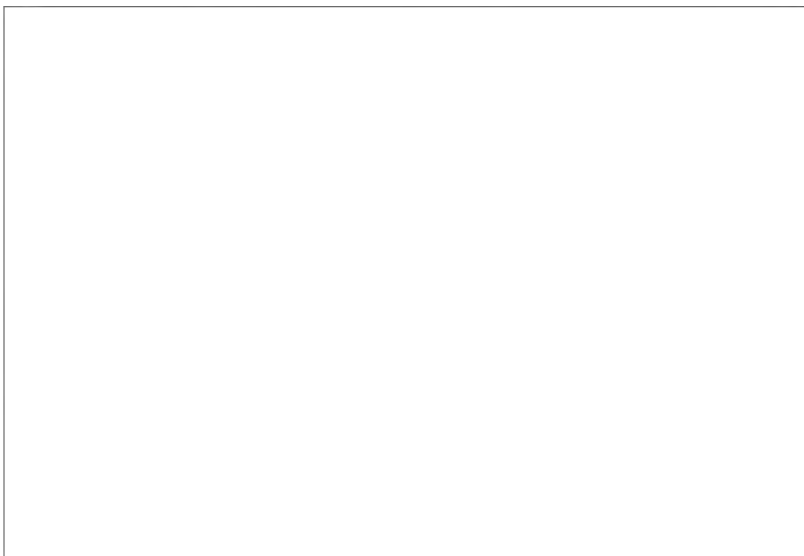
Mobutu is determined to use the current meeting of his army high command to remove Premier Mulamba, who is his most obvious potential political rival. Mulamba is trying to fight back. He returned unexpectedly from an official visit to Zambia, where he was sent to get him out of the way during the meeting.

Mulamba has considerable popularity and his removal entails some risk to Mobutu's regime. How far Mobutu will go in disgracing him depends on Mulamba's success in rallying his supporters.

Mulamba's removal would mean the loss of one of the few Congolese leaders with whom Americans could deal on a rational basis.

4. Cuba

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